

Message Text

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53

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-05 L-02 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 DODE-00 H-01 NSC-05 SS-15 OMB-01 CIEP-01 NIC-01

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R 191523Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6719

INFO AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

AMCONSUL LIVERPOOL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, MPOL, UK

SUBJECT: DEFENSE REVIEW: NEC CRITICISM SIDE-TRACKED

REF: LONDON 16495

1. LABOR PARTY INTERNAL STRUGGLE OVER DEFENSE REVIEW
ISSUE (REFTEL) CONTINUED DECEMBER 18 WHEN NATIONAL
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (NEC) CONSIDERED LEFTIST-SPONSORED
RESOLUTION WHICH WAS CRITICAL OF GOVERNMENT POLICY AND
CALLED FOR FURTHER CUTS IN DEFENSE SPENDING. RESOLUTION,
SPONSORED BY TRIBUNITES FRANK ALLUAN AND JOAN MAYNARD,
WAS SIDE-TRACKED, BUT NOT KILLED, BY COMPROMISE MOVE
PROPOSED BY TRIBUNITE (AND EMPLOYMENT SECRETARY) MICHAEL
FOOT.

2. FOOT PROPOSED THAT THE RESOLUTION "LIE ON THE TABLE"
UNTIL NEXT MONTH'S NEC MEETING, WHILE SPECIAL NEC SUB-
COMMITTEE CONSULTS DEFENSE SECRETARY MASON ON DETAILS OF
BUDGET ALLOCATIONS AND CUTS. THE SUB-COMMITTEE INCLUDES
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BOTH LEFT- AND RIGHT-WINGERS.

3. COMMENT: GIVEN MAKE-UP OF NEC AND ABSENCE OF KEY MODERATES FROM YESTERDAY'S MEETING, FOOT'S ACTION PROBABLY AVERTED APPROVAL OF THE HOSTILE RESOLUTION, THEREBY AT LEAST POSTPONING ANOTHER CONFRONTATION BETWEEN NEC AND WILSON GOVERNMENT (SEE LONDON 14535 AND PREVIOUS). IT IS NOT YET CLEAR WHETHER FOOT COMPROMISE WILL EFFECTIVELY KILL THE RESOLUTION, BUT IN ANY CASE THE GOVERNMENT CAN USE THE TIME TO ORGANIZE OPPOSITION TO IT. ROLE OF MICHAEL FOOT, THE DARLING OF LABOR'S LEFT-WING, IN DELAYING RESOLUTION WAS ESPECIALLY IRONIC AND WILL PROBABLY INCREASE LEFT'S SUSPICION THAT GOVERNMENT IS COOPTING HIM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATIONAL SECURITY, MILITARY PLANS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LONDON16571
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740369-0666
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741223/aaaaatds.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 74 LONDON 16495
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <26 MAR 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEFENSE REVIEW: NEC CRITICISM SIDE-TRACKED
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, MPOL, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005